(c) The proposed Eighty Third Constitutional Amendment Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee that submitted its Report in November, 1997. La Commission of India also made suggestions in this regard in its 165th Report. Taking into account these suggestions, a revised draft amendment is currently under consideration of a Group of Ministers set up by the Cabinet.

Transfer Policy in CSIR

*490. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CSIR has formulated a policy for its common cadre officers in respect of postings and transfers, particularly, for officers who have less than three years to retire from service;

(b) if so, the detials thereof;

(c) the number of officers due to retire in next three years, the names of officers working away from their home towns; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the steps taken by Government to rectify the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) CSIR has not formulated a policy as regards trasnfers & postings of its common cadre officers, particularly, in respect of those who have less than 3 years to superannuate from Council service. However, there are certann guidelines as regards transfers & postings which are followed in respect of all the common cadre officers including those who have less than 3 years to superannuate.

(b) As regards the officers having less than 3 years to retire on superannuation, the guidelines *inter-alia* enunciate that such officers will be retained at the same station on promotion or otherwise as far as possible barring exception and/or at the discretion of the competent authority.

(c) The postings and transfers of common cadre officers in CSIR, as per the guidelines, are made in public interest and/or as per the preference(s) indicated by the officer(s) before appearing in interview for promotion and not as per their declared hometown. As of now, 141 officers are due to retire on

superannuation in the next three years ending 31.3.2003. Applications in respect of only 2 officers who are to superannuate in next 3 years received from their respective labs./instts. are presently pending consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Cost of Urea Imports

*491. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of Urea imports has gone up substantially during the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of imports and the quantity imported during the last five years;

(c) the percentage of value of Urea imports during the same period; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) The imports of urea are made on Government account. The quantum of urea imports and their absolute value in the last five years have been as under:—

(Qty in lakh MTs)
(Rs. in crores)

Year	Quantity	Value	Weighted average C&F price (Rs/MT)	Value of Imports in percentage terms to overall cost of production of indigenous urea**
1995-96	37.81	2840.14	7510	32.48
1996-97	23.28	1701.75	7308	19.18
1997-98	23.89	1296.57	4530	11.49
1998-99	5.56	240.00	4316	1.83
1999-2000	5.33	197.16	3698	1.48*

*Provisional

**The Cost of production is as estimated under the Retention Pricing Scheme of urea.